



Prevention Resource & Media Center
1237 West Divide Ave, Suite 1D
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-328-8919
Fax: 701-328-8979
ndprmc@nd.gov
www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention

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Contact: Pamela Sagness, Prevention Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-8824, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933.

Five North Dakota Communities Will Benefit from Substance Abuse Prevention

BISMARCK, N.D. – This fall, the communities of **Bottineau, Carrington, Minot, Watford City** and the **Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood** school district applied for assistance developing effective local substance abuse prevention efforts in their communities. They were notified this week that the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division will be providing expert assistance.

Community members will work with the State Prevention Team specialists to develop unique plans to address and prevent alcohol and other substance abuse. Communities will receive guidance identifying goals, implementing effective strategies and evaluating community progress. Areas of focus will include education, workplace wellness, treatment, law enforcement, and public awareness.

"We know North Dakotans believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention.* These communities are eager to move forward to create local-level change," said Pamela Sagness, prevention administrator for the division. "We are pleased to be able to support them."

Work in Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood and Watford City will begin in December, followed by the other three communities early next year.

The communities applied for assistance. In their applications, each identified community needs, resources, funding, readiness, past and present prevention efforts, partnerships, and a vision.

Other communities are invited to apply. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. The targeted community application for substance abuse assistance can be found online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/pdf/targeted-community-app.pdf.

For more information, contact the Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8918, TTY: 701-857-8666, Toll-Free 800-642-6744 or visit our Web site www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention.

* Of those surveyed, 92 percent of N.D. community members believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention (CRS, 2008).

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Prevention
Administrator
Pamela Sagness, LAC
701-328-8824
psagness@nd.gov

Prevention Resource &
Media Center [PRMC]
Administrator
Laura Anderson, MPH
701-328-8918
lauranderson@nd.gov

Prevention Media
Specialist
Amber Jensen
701-328-8747
ajensen@nd.gov

Prevention Criminal
Justice Specialist
Chad Eagleson
701-328-8943
cweagleson@nd.gov

Prevention Education
Specialist
Rachelle Loda
701-857-8576
rloda@nd.gov

Community
Prevention Specialist
Thomas Volk
701-328-8919
tmvolk@nd.gov

Community
Prevention Specialist
Crystal Kraft
701-328-8602
crykraft@nd.gov

